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Reviews

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Reviews

Whom We Would Never More See: History and Archaeology Recover the Lives and Deaths of African-American Civil War Soldiers on Folly Island, South Carolina. By Steven D. Smith. Topics in African-American History 3, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, 1993.

This monograph is a popular account of the discovery and excavation of a Civil War brigade cemetery containing the remains of members of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and the 1st North Carolina Colored Infantry from New Bern and James City, North Carolina. The soldiers died while stationed on Folly Island, South Carolina during the siege of Charleston, and some of their exploits were recounted in the movie *Glory*. In 1987, the cemetery was discovered during the development of a residential community, and the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology conducted excavations to remove the remains before they were destroyed. Later, the Institute returned to excavate portions of the surrounding camps. The monograph discusses the history of the siege, the two regiments, and how archaeologists determined which regiments were represented by the human remains. One chapter is devoted to life and death on Folly Island, based on the history and archaeology. The final chapter discusses the military reburial of these soldiers after their study. The monograph avoids archaeological jargon and overwhelming technical data and concentrates instead on relating the story with excellent illustrations, maps and a popular writing style. It is a most successful attempt at bringing the conclusions and interesting facts of history and archaeology to the general public.

A little grey literature

Over the past few years I have received, in one fashion or another, publications that the academic world is wont to call "grey literature", but which for most of us in contracting is our bread and butter. I mean, ofcourse, contract reports and other unpublished or not very widely distributed reports. Some of these have proved useful to me, and I feel they deserve wider distribution. The following is a brief synopsis of a few which you might find useful along with where to get a copy.

In Those Days, African-American Life Near the Savannah River (Sharyn Kane and Richard Keeton 1994). This is one of a series of nicely printed publications that the National Park Service in Atlanta has been producing recently using non-technical authors. This 91 page booklet is a popular synthesis of the extensive work conducted by the Corps of Engineers at the Richard Russell Lake prior to its inundation in the early 1980s. It is based in part on portions of a two volume technical synthesis by David Anderson and Joe Joseph of perhaps the largest project or series of projects ever conducted in Georgia and South Carolina. The present volume deals only with the African-American sites, documents and oral interviews. It is well illustrated and provides a good background for the general reader and the interested professional. The archaeological discussion relies heavily on Chuck Orser's work at Millwood Plantation, and Elaine Ramsey was primarily responsible for the history and oral interviews. Best of all it is free, and still available at Interagency Archaeological Services, National Park Service, 75 Spring Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Prehistory and History Along the Upper Savannah River: Technical Synthesis of Cultural Resource Investigations, Richard B. Russell Multiple Resource Area (David G. Anderson and J.W. Joseph 1988). You can tell this is a contract report by its title and length (641 pages). This is the technical synthesis upon which the popular report noted above was excerpted. It has more detailed data on all aspects of the archaeology and history of the lake area. It, too, is free, and is necessary for anyone doing archaeology or history in the piedmont southeast. Unfortunately, copies are no longer available, but if IAS were to get enough requests, who knows, maybe they would print up a few more.

In the last issue, I mentioned Richard Westmacott's African-American gardening volume. There is also a thesis on African American gardening in piedmont Georgia written by Elise Eugenia LeMaistre, and entitled *In Search of a Garden: African Americans and the Land in Piedmont Georgia*. Westmacott was her major professor. It was written for her master's in landscape architecture in 1988 and provides descriptions and a typology of gardens and general farm layouts. It should be available through the department of landscape architecture at the University of Georgia in Athens, which, by the way is one of the better landscape architecture schools around.

A few years ago (1989 to be exact), the faculty and staff of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina rounded up a series of invited papers for a volume entitled *Studies in South Carolina Archaeology, Essays in Honor of Robert L. Stephenson*. Three articles touch upon African-American themes. Martha Zierden and Jeanne Calhoun provide a synthesis of recent urban archaeology in Charleston with a discussion of urban slave sites. Leland Ferguson provides some pre-Uncommon Ground thoughts on the place and interpretation of slave-made and Indian-made ceramics. This subject is further explored by Pat Garrow and Tom Wheaton in an article on the slave and Indian-made ceramics from the Yaughan and Curriboo plantation slave quarters. The volume is nicely printed, edited by Glen Hanson and Al Goodyear, and available as Anthropological Studies #9 of the Occasional Papers of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology (note the new spelling) and Anthropology at USC in Columbia.

Archaeological Data Recovery at Long Point Plantation (38CH321), Mark Clark Expressway (I-526), Charleston County, South Carolina is a contract report by Eric Poplin and Michael Scardaville of Brockington and Associates in 1991. While it does not present much in the way of interpretation or analysis it does contain useful comparative data on plantation artifacts including slave material. As the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation is one of the few agencies around that attempts to fulfill its obligation to make data available to the public that pays for it, copies of the report may still be available from the department in Columbia.

Finally, but certainly not least, is a tome by David Babson on investigations at Belle Helene plantation in Louisiana entitled *Pillars on the Levee: Archaeological Investigations at Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation, Geismar, Ascension Parish, Louisiana*. The report recounts work undertaken at the slave quarters and other outbuildings in 1989. The project was a testing program to determine the National Register eligibility of the site, and not data recovery. It was therefore unable to provide an in-depth analysis of the site, but like the Long Point Plantation

project, it does provide useful comparative data on artifacts and artifact distributions. This report is still available from David at the Midwestern Archaeological Research Center, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois 61761. There is a small fee, at least there was for me.

There is also a journal that many people may not be aware of that occasionally has a bearing on African-American archaeology. This is *Nyame Akuma*, the bulletin of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists. For those of you wanting to build up your bibliography on African archaeology, this may be a place to start, although nearly all of the articles are prehistoric; it also helps to know some French. The journal is more of an extended and intensive set of current research notes, which provides a broad perspective on a necessarily very broad subject. Illustrations of pottery profiles and decorative motifs are interesting, but so far, there are no incised Xs. It costs \$20 to subscribe, payable to SAFA. Write to Dr. Steven A. Brandt, Treasurer-SAFA, 427 Grinter Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.